

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE PETITION OF PILGRIM TELEPHONE, INC.)	
FOR ARBITRATION WITH BELL SOUTH)	CASE NO.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. PURSUANT TO)	2000-449
SECTIONS 252(b) OF THE COMMUNICATIONS)	
ACT OF 1996)	

O R D E R

Pilgrim Telephone, Inc. ("Pilgrim") has petitioned for arbitration seeking resolution of certain issues between itself and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). The Commission must make a decision in this case by no later than January 14, 2001. Pilgrim seeks arbitration of four issues. BellSouth has filed its response to Pilgrim's petition.

Pilgrim had initially filed a petition for arbitration against BellSouth on September 14, 1999. The Commission docketed that case as Case No. 99-385.¹ Pilgrim indicates that the issues in that proceeding have been held in abeyance while it attempted to negotiate a settlement with BellSouth. At this time, Pilgrim requests that the proceeding of Case No. 99-385 be merged into this proceeding. Accordingly, the Commission will merge these proceedings. The record of Case No. 99-385 should be incorporated by reference into this proceeding. Any filings made by the parties should now only reference Case No. 2000-449.

¹ Case No. 99-385, Pilgrim Telephone, Inc. v. BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. For a Petition for Arbitration Pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Telecom Act of 1996 imposes strict deadlines upon this proceeding. Brevity, as well as clarity of expression and position, is of the essence. It is imperative that the Commission receive appropriate information in a timely manner. Accordingly, the following guidelines and procedural schedule shall apply to this proceeding. The purpose of this proceeding is to explore specific arbitration issues, not to engage in tangential or philosophical debate.

When the parties essentially have agreed as to a particular issue, but they have not been able to agree as to the precise language to express the agreement, the Commission will not hear argument on the issue in this proceeding. Reduction of the proposed agreement to writing is the responsibility of the parties. Each party may submit its proposed version of the contract term in its best and final offer, which shall be submitted no later than December 4, 2000.

Although the Commission is not bound by the technical rules of legal evidence, KRS 278.310, the parties hereto are hereby put on notice that cumulative, repetitive, and irrelevant evidence will not be heard in the formal hearing in this matter. Unless special leave is granted, opening and closing statements will not be permitted. In addition, unless special leave is granted, all direct testimony shall be prefiled. All testimony at the formal hearing shall be offered pursuant to cross-examination or redirect examination, provided, however, that in light of the time constraint, rebuttal testimony will be permitted.

The Commission, being sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. A formal hearing in this matter is scheduled for December 8, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky.
2. The record of Case No. 99-385 is hereby merged into this proceeding and incorporated by reference.
3. Relevant cost studies, including workpapers, and any other documents and information necessary to resolve outstanding issues shall be filed by November 22, 2000.
4. Prefiled testimony shall be filed by December 4, 2000 and hearing testimony is limited to cross-examination or redirect examination and rebuttal testimony.
5. Any party filing testimony shall file an original and 12 copies. The original and at least 3 copies of the testimony shall be filed as follows:
 - a. Together with cover letter listing each person presenting testimony.
 - b. Bound in 3-ring binders or with any other fastener which readily opens and closes to facilitate easy copying.
 - c. Each witness's testimony should be tabbed.
 - d. Every exhibit to each witness's testimony should be appropriately marked.
6. Any agreed-upon portions of the parties' contract which have not already been filed shall be filed by December 4, 2000.
7. Each party shall submit, in contract form, its best and final offer on each disputed issue no later than December 4, 2000.

8. An informal conference is scheduled to be conducted on November 28, 2000 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Conference Room 1 of the Commission's offices at the address listed above.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of October, 2000.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Deputy W. H. Fowler
Executive Director